



News Release

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, July 17, 2008

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UDOH Honors Employers Who Encourage Tobacco Cessation *USANA employee wins cruise*

SALT LAKE CITY – In an effort to encourage Utah businesses to create tobacco-free workplaces, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) launched a contest to recognize employers and employees who develop or adopt worksite policies to help their colleagues quit tobacco.

Contest winner Brad Pace, an employee of Salt Lake City-based USANA Health Sciences, Inc., became a health advocate for other employees after USANA offered tools to help him help others quit smoking; Pace is now a wellness coordinator who helps others travel the road to recovery.

As a health-conscious employer, USANA's tuition reimbursement program helped send Pace to school and pay for his master's program. USANA also funded smoking cessation programs, including bringing in paid instructors from the Utah Lung Association, to form a supportive base. The company also provided incentives – from gift cards to cash – to reward employees who quit tobacco.

“There are compelling health and economic reasons for employers to make their businesses smoke-free,” said David Neville, media coordinator, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, UDOH. “We are proud to honor USANA as a health advocate and encourage more companies to implement similar programs.”

Going smoke-free makes good business sense. Such policies lower business costs, reduce liability, and increase productivity and morale. In addition, since 90 percent of Utah adults do not smoke, smoke-free workplaces are attractive to current and potential employees.

For his winning submission, Pace won a 5-night cruise for two to Cabo San Lucas and round trip air to San Diego courtesy of Morris Murdock Travel and Carnival Cruises. Contestants entered the contest through submission on KSL.com.

To help employers begin going tobacco-free, UDOH has a workplace toolkit available. Call 877-220-3466 or visit www.tobaccofreeutah.org/shsworksitakit.pdf for a free kit.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death; assuring access to affordable, quality health care; and promoting healthy lifestyles.